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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James A. Downey III
Manager, Payload Projects Office
Marshall Space Flight Center
Huntsville, Alabama 35812

James A. Downey III is manager of the Payload Projects Office at NASA's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. He was appointed manager of the Spacelab Payload Project Office in July 1981. The Spacelab Payload Project Office was expanded and renamed the Payload Projects Office in April 1987.

The office Mr. Downey manages was responsible for the definition, development and operation of the first three Spacelab payloads carried into Earth orbit by the Space Shuttle. The office is also responsible for a variety of other Shuttle payload mission and scientific experiments.

A native of Alabama, Mr. Downey was born in Birmingham, Ala., in 1930. He graduated from Ramsey High School in Birmingham in 1947. He received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama in 1952. While attending the University of Alabama, he was chosen for membership in Tau Beta Pi, Phi Eta Sigma and Pi Tau Sigma, and received the Morrison Prize for the highest scholastic average in his graduating class.

Mr. Downey joined the U.S. Air Force in 1952, and was selected for a two-year graduate course at North Carolina State College, Raleigh. He received a master of science degree in nuclear engineering in from North Carolina State College in 1954.

He served at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio from 1954 to 1957. While there, he became project engineer for the development of special equipment for missile systems and the nuclear powered aircraft program. After discharge from the Air Force in 1957, he worked as an engineer at a refinery of the American Oil Company in Destrehan, La.

In November 1958, Mr. Downey joined the Research Projects Laboratory of the U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. He was transferred with the other personnel of this laboratory to the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center when it was formed in July 1960.

At the Marshall Center, he has held increasingly responsible supervisory positions. He was acting director of the Space Sciences Laboratory prior to becoming director of the Mission and Payload Planning Office within the Program Development Directorate in 1969. He subsequently served as manager of the Space Telescope Task Team, associate director

for science, and, from February 1976 until July 1981, as deputy director of the Program Development Directorate.

A member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), he was general chairman of a Space Industrialization Symposium jointly sponsored by the Alabama Section of AIAA and the Marshall Center in 1976. The Alabama Section of AIAA received the 1975-76 AIAA Special Event Award for successfully conducting this symposium.

Mr. Downey is married to the former Lu Klie Yeilding of Birmingham. The couple lives in Huntsville and has three children: James Patton, Howard Yeilding and Elizabeth Steele.